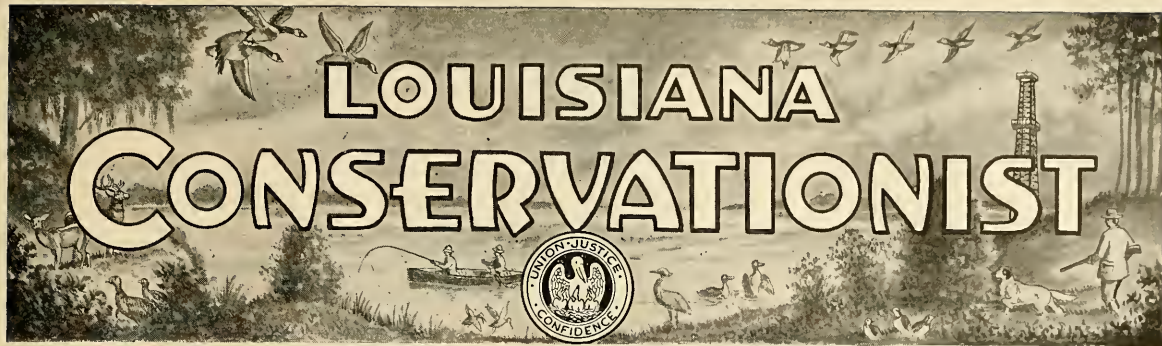




Volume 3



FEBRUARY, 1945

Number 3

## Closed Season Applies to Only Three Species of Fish, Now in Effect in Thirty-Eight Southern Parishes

Clarifying the new legislative act pertaining to closed seasons for fishing, Commissioner John G. Appel of the Department of Wild Life & Fisheries has emphasized that the two month closed season which went into effect Thursday, February 1, in 33 South Louisiana parishes applies only to three specific species of fresh water game fish.

The restriction does not apply to commercial fishing and other fresh water fish, the Commissioner pointed out. The species of fresh water game fish protected by the closed season are black bass known also as green trout; striped bass known also as yellow bass, and Crappie, known as white perch, speckled perch and sac-a-lait.

The 38 parishes in the south and central portion of the state where the closed season is in effect during the months of February and March are the following:

Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton

### LOWER END OF FALSE RIVER CLOSED TO ALL TYPES OF FISHING

First application of the new law giving the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries authority to declare a closed season on fishing in any body of water in the state, has been applied to the lower end of False River in Pointe Coupee Parish, which has been closed to all types of fishing.

Notice of the closing has been published in the official journal of Pointe Coupee Parish, as required by Act 166 of 1944, and signs have been placed in the area of the River which has been closed. The affected area is from a point on the shore east of Jim Jarreau's Camp to a point on the shore near Three Arch Inn. The closed season in this zone remains in effect through March 31, 1945.

Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Tammany, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vernon, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.

There will also be a closed season on the same three species of fresh water game fish in the remaining 26 parishes in the northern part of the state beginning March 1, and continuing through April, Commissioner Appel stated.

"While there has been some speculation and discussion as to the wisdom or necessity of a closed season," Commissioner Appel stated, "the fact is that the legislature has enacted this law and it is our duty to enforce it. If the experiment does not prove successful or bring the results expected it will be up to the legislature at its next session to do something about it. In the meantime, our enforcement (Continued to Page 7, Column 4)

## Value and Take Less as Muskrat Season Closes

When Louisiana's muskrat trapping season ended officially Thursday, February 15th, a total of three sales had been held comprising the take of furs on state owned game preserves, and the

### HUNTING ILLEGAL AFTER FEBRUARY

There will be a total blackout of hunting in Louisiana after February. The only hunting now legal is for quail and rabbits. The quail season ends on February 20th and the rabbit season closes February 28th.

A limited 15-day open season on Wild Turkey Gobblers will be in effect from April 1st to April 15th.

total amount realized from these three sales was \$226,506.99, of which 65 per cent goes to the trappers participating and 35 per cent goes to a specially dedicated fund in the Department set aside for (Continued to Page 6, Column 4)



Photo by Burkemeyer

Panorama view of speaker's stand and crowd at the Arbor Day ceremonies held in Baton Rouge, Friday, January 26th, which was featured by the planting and dedication of Cork Oak Tree on state capitol grounds. (See Page 5 for other pictures and details).

**JIMMIE H. DAVIS**  
Governor of Louisiana



**JOHN G. APPEL**  
Commissioner

## LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST

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**ISAAC D. CHAPMAN**  
Editor

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Volume 3

FEBRUARY, 1945

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# Congress Tackles Water Hyacinth Problem

Congress is being asked to give serious consideration and attention to the water hyacinth, which has become a serious problem in Louisiana and other southern states. According to recent reports from Washington, Congressmen James Domengeaux of Lafayette and Paul Maloney of New Orleans have been urging Congress to take some specific action, to replace halfway measures and inaugurate an all-out attack on the water hyacinth, which is impeding navigation and interfering with the fishing industry in a major way.

In the past, appropriations for hyacinth control have been carried in rivers and harbors bills. This had the effect of confining the work to the more important navigable streams. Representative Maloney stated that control measures will have to be extended beyond the streams that are navigable in an interstate sense.

The Rivers and Harbors Committee of the House of Representatives adopted a resolution on February 6th, prepared by Representative James Domengeaux and presented by Representative Henry D. Larcade, Jr., authorizing a survey to determine the possibilities of eliminating the hyacinth plants, alligator grass and other obstructions, as a postwar project. The United States Engineers will make the survey.

In considering the problem from a long-range view, Mr. Maloney thinks research should be undertaken looking to the commercial use of water hyacinths. If a use could be developed so as to make it profitable to remove them he thinks the menace would be met in a very satisfactory way. But he recognizes that in the meantime some way must be found to eliminate this rank growth in waterways.

Formerly chemicals were used in the control of hyacinths but it was found that the chemicals also killed crabs and fish, so it has had to be abandoned.

Representative Domengeaux presented a formal resolution to the rivers and harbors committee calling for a study to determine the cost and the feasibility of eradicating this plant growth, which he described as a "menace to navigation, fishing, wildlife and health."

"Cost of eradicating the water hyacinth," Representative Domengeaux asserted, "not only is justified but it is certain to be a paying investment. It should be a part of any postwar public works program."

The Third District representative pointed out that the fight against this plant dates back many years, but during that period it has been confined to the clearing of streams navigated regularly. This work has been carried on persistently and effectively by the army engineers through an annual appropriation to the war department. Because of the other factors involved in this problem, in addition to navigation, it is necessary that controls be extended.

Representative Domengeaux said no congressional report has been submitted on this subject since one in 1898 which recommended an appropriation for the use of crushing boats, log booms and spraying. The war on hyacinths appears to have had its real origin in 1897, he explained, when by congressional action a board of engineers was instructed to investigate the extent of the obstruction of navigable streams in the Gulf coast area and to determine means of removing them so far as they constituted a hind-

rance to interstate or foreign commerce.

First operations of the present authorized federal project were carried out in 1900 by a mechanical crushing plant, Representative Domengeaux stated. In 1902 the use of chemicals was authorized and from then until 1936 the plants were controlled by spraying with a solution of arsenic and soda, by hand removal and by booms. The use of chemicals has since been abandoned and the process of removal by hand reduced to a minimum. In recent years the crushing plant, power-operated conveyors and booms have been utilized, he stated.

Representative Domengeaux said the problem must be met at its very source and the growth combatted wherever it exists rather than to confine efforts to a relatively small area where interstate navigation is affected. His resolution, which was prepared in collaboration with army engineers, asks the board of engineers for rivers and harbors to review reports on the hyacinth obstructions with a view to determining whether any expansion of the scope of operations, or any change in the methods now employed for exterminating these plants and other marine vegetable growths from the waters of Louisiana and other Gulf coast states is advisable at this time; the nature and extent of the various public benefits that would accrue from such extermination and removal, and the amount of local co-operation that may be warranted by reason of the local benefits.

Representative Domengeaux stressed that in addition to the hyacinth, the proposed survey is directed particularly against alligator grass, which has spread rapidly from waterways to invade much agricultural land.

### DIRECTORY OF DIVISION HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

John G. Appel, Commissioner  
L. J. Scanlon,  
Executive Assistant  
H. M. Grode, Chief Accountant  
J. N. Gowanloch,  
Chief Biologist  
Isaac D. Chapman,  
Education and Publicity  
J. C. LeBlanc, Enforcement  
Armand P. Daspit,  
Fur and Wildlife Refuge  
James Brown,  
Fish and Game  
J. N. McConnell,  
Oyster and Waterbottoms  
Louis Cusachs,  
Research and Statistics

"This action would be taken with the view of determining the estimated cost of permanently eliminating the hyacinths and other marine vegetable growths from the streams," Representative Domengeaux said, "and since the obstruction of these waterways affects the fishing industry, agriculture and health conditions, the resolution solicits the co-operation of the fish and wild life service of the department of the interior and of the department of agriculture and the United States Public Health Service.

"I am confident that with sufficient study, time and funds, this menace to our national life and resources can be removed," he added. "I believe the best way to do this will be through a program in which the federal, state and county governments co-operate. We must keep in mind that aside from the benefits such a project will bring to navigation, industry and the public in general, it will create a very large volume of employment, thus bringing immediate and substantial returns from the moment it is started."

# Poverty or Conservation---Our National Problem

By JAY N. "DING" DARLING  
Honorary President,  
National Wildlife Federation

Any nation is rich so long as its supply of resources is greater than the need of its people. After that no nation is self-supporting. Somewhere between those two extremes lies America and its problem of a world free from want.

Since it seems practically decided that America is going to have company for dinner, it might be a good idea to have a look at our pantry shelves and count our food coupons. Any good housewife would do as much.

Feeding the war-starved world with the surpluses produced in a land of free men under Democratic Government would seem a reasonable method by which to create a favorable impression on the people who have starved under Fascism.

At any rate, the invitations are out and the hungry guests are arriving: India, China, Greece, Algeria, Tunisia, a portion of Russia, some of England, a little of Spain, Sicily, Southern Italy, and presumably all the rest of Europe as fast as portions of it are liberated, to say nothing of helping to feed the armies of our Allies.

It is a large order, but our agriculturists have reached a new record peak of production. Technological advancements have greatly increased the crop yields, and victory gardens—in spite of the bean bugs, blisters and amateur efforts—have filled the new horn of plenty from a hitherto undeveloped source of food supply. Admittedly many thousands of acres still remain idle, or through neglect fall far below their maximum production. An International Food Conference has pooled the estimated resources of the world and made out a menu, which they declare holds promise of nutrition for all. We are proceeding to set the table on that assumption. Our objective is a world free from want, and for an unspecified length of time, at least, a large part of the food supplies are to be furnished by America.

Surely there is no one who would wish to destroy that fine hope and laudable intention, but it might as well be admitted that feeding the hitherto undernourished world cannot be accomplished simply by all joining hands and singing "God Bless America." It is going to demand some very serious thinking and even more serious doing. What

must be done we must do in the interest of a better world of which we are an inseparable part. Such sacrifices as we may be called upon to make cannot possibly equal the cost of wars and the threat of future wars. If the free nations of the world will join in a cooperative union to accomplish that objective our contribution may be costly but compared to the wastage of war it will be cheap and may be set down as money and resources well spent.

So much for the compulsory needs now confronting us. If that is the price of world peace we must pay it. But what is the use of thus saving our precious lives

**Editor's Note: Jay N. "Ding" Darling, Honorary President of the National Wildlife Federation has written a series of articles on the subject, "Poverty or Conservation—Our National Problem."**

Because we believe this nationally recognized conservation authority has a message of interest to all conservationists of Louisiana, we are glad to publish this inspirational message from "Ding."

The first installment is published in this issue and other installments will appear in future issues.

if we are going to commit national suicide by wasting our resources faster than we eat them?

For instance, while we are thinking about how we are going to feed the undernourished world there is more beefsteak and potatoes, roast duck, ham and eggs, and bread and butter with jam being washed down our rivers each year in the form of good rich topsoil than all the food we export to our Allies and distressed populations in any current year. That is a lot of groceries. It may look like nothing but mud to you as it swirls down our silt-laden streams, but it is the very substance out of which our magnificent crops are produced. It is the cream off the top of our continent.

That tremendous loss by unchecked soil erosion has been going on for years and still continues in spite of all the noise and shouting about soil conservation. Even a Democratic form of government, with all its blessings, cannot replace lost topsoil. Only Mother Nature can do that, and it takes centuries of precious time.

If an alien aggressor attempts to steal so much as a square inch of our sacred land the whole nation rushes to arms, but there are twenty-five million cubic feet of our richest land washing away each year—lost forever—and no one, well almost no one, gives it a thought. Peculiar, isn't it? But no more astonishing than the complete disregard with which the people of this nation have watched their forests, well stocked lakes, streams and other natural resources disappear with unparalleled rapidity. That is a simplified way of saying that while we are worrying our silly heads over our food ration coupons, we are allowing the substance of our human paradise to slip through our fingers without protest.

The trail of civilization is strewn with the wrecks of derelict races and nations which fell by the wayside when their natural resources played out. By the way, did you know that the fabled land of Canaan, once flowing with milk and honey, is now a desert? Canaan is now on relief and we are furnishing it. How and why a land once flowing with milk and honey should be reduced to starvation and rags is a fair object for study; and how to avoid it, the lesson which conservationists try to teach. The mystery is that so few people should care to learn it.

As long as we in America could pick up the telephone and get anything we wanted delivered to our door for the asking—whether it was fresh strawberries in mid-winter ripened in Texas sunshine or two-inch sirloin steaks from corned beef—it seemed almost impossible to get the people of the United States to think there was any limit to our natural resources or to take seriously the subject of guarding against rapid depletion. Since we seemed to have plenty of everything why worry about it? Were we not the richest country in the world? Then, why all this bother about conservation?

Until this war we thought we had so much of everything that our resources would last forever. Within one short year, we have tumbled from this dreamy height in the clouds and landed, none too comfortably, in a bramble bush of painful shortages, which has scratched and jabbed us in a lot of places we never even suspected had feelings.

When Japan moved into Manchuria 10 years ago, we still closed our eyes and ears to the

open threat to our safety. The majority of our people would not take this war seriously either until the attack on Pearl Harbor.

We realize now we were actually warned of the war that was to come, and the warnings to this nation that the depletion of our natural resources has already reached the danger point are written just as plainly across the face of this continent as were the threats made by Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito. They are written in million-acre patches of **denuded forests, abandoned farms, dust bowls and dried-up rivers, springs and lakes.** Tens of thousands of so-called "Okies," refugees from wrecked land, have paraded back and forth before our eyes on the public highways crying for relief within the last decade. The portent of these warnings has been interpreted and shouted from the housetops by the prophets of conservation, but the public turned a deaf ear. We blamed our economic breakdown on Wall Street, on Herbert Hoover, the Republican Party, on Capitalism, on Industry. We blamed it on most anything except depleted natural resources. To name the real cause would reflect on our own intelligence and scandalous waste of which every one of us in this country is more or less guilty. As a remedy we brought forth a great number of patent medicine tonics. We tried to spend ourselves rich. Redistribution of wealth and the 40-hour week were recommended as cure-alls. Made-work projects and plowing under surplus crops were applied liberally. There is no attempt to deny or affirm the minor virtues which were claimed for these various specifics, but none of them touched the seat of the disease, which lay, at least in part, in the rapidly shrinking agricultural lands, the denudation of rich forest areas, the pollution and overfishing of our lakes, streams and coastal areas, and the overgrazing of our western grasslands. The patent medicines had cost us forty billion dollars, but the major problem of checking the disease of dwindling resources had scarcely been touched. Then came the war. The new emergency put upon our natural resources the greatest burden that had ever been known. That burden will continue until long after the signing of peace. While the war-torn world is healing its wounds a large proportion of the

(Continued to Page 8, Column 3)

# Louisiana Has Rich Heritage in Forest Lands

By JIMMIE H. DAVIS  
Governor of Louisiana

Forces are in motion today in Louisiana in the field of conservation and reforestation moving towards our ultimate goal of having every acre harnessed for maximum production. Through drainage and through reforestation, we are striving to make maximum use of our marginal and submarginal agricultural and pasture land.

While our native pine and hardwoods have served us admirably and responded readily to protection and management, the national need for cork may justify us in considering the growing of cork oak in our forests. Cork will grow in Louisiana, we know, but whether or not we can grow it commercially and profitably is undetermined. It is possible that after further study of cork oak and its requirements, the growing of this very essential commodity may be seriously considered and a place found for it in our land use program.

It is interesting to know that Thomas Jefferson in his great wisdom recommended the growing of cork in the South during his time. He believed so strongly that the South could grow cork that for a period of 40 years he endeavored to establish cork plantations in the South. His last attempt was six months prior to his death. Although he was not successful in his attempt, nevertheless, we know today that he was right in believing that the climate and soil of the south is suitable for growing cork.

So, with this excellent recommendation from a great American it seems appropriate that on the occasion of this celebration of Arbor Day in Louisiana, to plant a species of oak that in many ways resemble our famous and prolific live oak.

I think it appropriate in planting this cork oak, which is a native of the Mediterranean countries, that our thoughts turn to Thomas Jefferson in recognition of his unceasing efforts to establish this valuable species in America and to plant this tree to serve as a beacon light to keep alive the fond hope of this great American that some day his dream would be realized.

We have a rich heritage in Louisiana's forest lands.

Our forest area comprises some sixteen million acres, fifty-six per cent of the state's land area.

It is estimated that fifty thousand persons in Louisiana are em-

ployed, full-time or part-time, in processing forest products, and these persons are paid an average of forty-five million dollars per year. These figures exceed those of any industrial group in the state and the value of the ultimate forest product is second only to that of our oil and gas resources.

Other sources of raw materials, supporting industry in Louisiana, such as oil, gas, sulphur and salt, are gone forever once they are removed. That is why we are making such a determined fight to prevent the exportation of our precious gas reserves, and we are going to carry on this fight, relentlessly and vigorously, until our goal has been achieved.

**Editor's Note:** The article on this page by Governor Davis is from an address the Governor delivered at the Arbor Day ceremonies held on the state capital grounds in Baton Rouge, January 26th. It presents a message of interest to all conservationists of Louisiana.

And we must exercise equal vigilance over our renewable natural resources. Our forest lands can be made to produce continuous crops of wood products, when properly protected and managed. Today in Louisiana, more than 475 wood-using industries are in operation and are using second growth timber almost entirely. Most of the lumber companies have instituted good forest practices and are growing as much timber as they cut; and thus they assure for themselves a source of raw material for continuous future operation. Several large pulp and paper mills are located in Louisiana. Their raw products are entirely young, second growth timber. All these wood-using industries are operating on the output of only partially productive forest lands. If we can make our forest areas produce more wood products, through forest fire protection and wise management practices, more industry will be attracted to the State, with resultant expanding economy to our communities and increasingly larger payrolls.

Because this administration recognized the importance of forestry in the economic welfare of Louisiana, we provided in the re-organization of our Conservation set-up, for a separate State Department, to promote the furtherance of our forestry resources. I have confidence that the wisdom

of this action will be reflected in the future through the activities of the Louisiana Forestry Commission.

Louisiana is in a favorable position among the states of the South in new and growing forests. While there are large areas in some sections of the state that are badly in need of planting and more intensive management, the principal wood producing areas are in such condition that intelligent management and adequate fire protection will continue to make Louisiana one of the leading southern states in the production of raw materials for forest products industries.

## MILITARY AMMUNITION DANGEROUS FOR HUNTERS

With the prospect that supplies of essential civilian ammunition will be greatly reduced in 1945, because the Government's military needs must come first, hunters are again warned against using ammunition of unknown origin by a spokesman of Remington Arms Company, Inc.

Los Angeles County, California, recently reported 14 fires caused by the use of tracer ammunition. Thus it is evident that military ammunition is getting into the hands of civilian hunters who are using it without knowledge of what they are shooting.

Hunters should never shoot any cartridge without first knowing that it was specifically manufactured for the type of weapon in which it is to be used. If there is any question in your mind concerning the safety of shooting a particular type of cartridge in your gun, play safe. Write any of the arms or ammunition companies for advice before taking a chance.

## CADDO SPORTSMEN NAME NEW OFFICERS

Harry B. Hickman was elected President of the Caddo Wildlife Federation at a meeting of the organization held in Shreveport in January. He succeeds Dr. A. T. Johnson, who has held the office for the past two years.

Other officers elected were: Percy N. Browne, vice president, and Claude Hamel, secretary-treasurer. Members of the board of directors are T. D. Connell, S. P. Cousin, A. A. Davis, Claudius Dickson, M. D. Evans, Patton Hawkins, E. E. Heister, Jerry Smith, Aaron Selber, Harry Johnson, Dr. A. T. Johnson and Earl Williamson.

## Ducks Unlimited Membership Drive Nearing Climax

Efforts are still under way to obtain five thousand members for Ducks Unlimited by March 1st and agents of the Wild Life & Fisheries Department who are conducting the drive have been urged by Commissioner John G. Appel to redouble their efforts in the remaining weeks in order to secure as many members as possible.

Last December agents of the Department agreed to undertake a drive to obtain memberships for Ducks Unlimited, and A. C. "Pops"

## GIVE COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIPS TO SERVICE MEN

Sportsmen and duck hunters are urged to give complimentary memberships to Ducks Unlimited to service men. Minimum membership dues are one dollar. Those who contribute more than the minimum may send in the names and addresses of service men who will be enrolled as members.

This suggestion has been made by Commissioner John G. Appel who recently received a check for five dollars from E. F. Fleming, Jr., of Baton Rouge with the suggestion that the Commissioner enroll five hunters as members of Ducks Unlimited. Captain Appel suggested that Mr. Fleming give the memberships to servicemen, which has been done.

"In view of the fact that Ducks Unlimited is engaged in the important work of building up the future duck population of the country, these complimentary memberships to service men should certainly be appropriate gifts," Commissioner Appel stated.

Glassell of Shreveport, president of the international duck organization, announced a number of prizes would be awarded to the agents who brought in the most memberships in a given period of time. This contest ended February 1st, by previous agreement, but the membership drive has been continued to March 1st, in the hopes that the minimum of 5,000 members may be obtained by that time.

Winners of the agent's membership contest will be announced in the March issue of the Conservationist, it has been announced by President Glassell of Ducks Unlimited.

## Cork Oak Planting Features Arbor Day Ceremonies

With Governor Jimmie H. Davis as the principal speaker, Louisiana officially observed Arbor Day Friday, January 26th with impressive ceremonies, which was featured by the planting of a cork oak tree on the state capital grounds by the Governor.

More than 1,000 people attended the ceremonies, and thousands of others heard the program as it was broadcast over a Baton Rouge radio station. In addition to the governor, others who spoke were Mrs. Ben G. Coulter, president of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, W. C. Abbott, state director of 4-H clubs, and John E. Cox, state superintendent of education.

Vertrees S. Young, member of the Louisiana Forestry Commission, presided as master of ceremonies, and music was furnished by the 82-piece Baton Rouge high school band, under the direction of W. A. Gill, Jr. The benediction was delivered by Dr. J. Norris Palmer, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge.

In addition to the speakers, prominent state officials occupied special seats on the speaker's stand. The cork oak tree was furnished by the Crown Cork and Seal Company, and representing the head of that company at the ceremonies was Walter McManus, son of Charles E. McManus, president, and a director of the com-



Photo by Gasquet

Governor Jimmie H. Davis completes the planting of the Cork Oak Tree. Inset is a close-up view of the plaque presented to the State by the Crown Cork & Seal Company, who also donated the tree.



Photo by Barkmeyer

Group of officials standing around the planted Cork Oak Tree. Left to right, they are Clifton F. Schmidt, Jr., (pointing to the tree), of the Crown Cork & Seal Co.; Dr. Gilles B. Cooke, also of Crown Cork & Seal Co.; Captain John G. Appel, Commissioner of Wild Life & Fisheries; Massey H. Anderson, State Forester; Governor Davis; Walter McManus, a director of the Crown Cork & Seal Co.; W. C. Abbott, State 4-H Club Agent, and Frank Grevemberg, State Manager of Executive Buildings.

pany. Also representing the company were Dr. Gilles Cooke, and Clifton F. Schmidt, Jr., of the research department of the Crown Cork & Seal Company.

The program in Louisiana was part of a south-wide program to promote the growing of cork oak. It has been determined that this tree, which is native to the Mediterranean region, can be grown in Louisiana. The Louisiana program was the seventh held thus far in the South, and according to the representatives of the Crown Cork & Seal Company, it was the most successful, most impressive and best attended of all the ceremonies held in the South.

Sponsoring the Arbor Day ceremonies were the Louisiana Forestry Commission, Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, Forestry Department of Louisiana State University, Louisiana Garden Club Federation, the 4-H clubs of Louisiana, and the State Department of Education, in cooperation with the Crown Cork & Seal Company.

Thousands of cork oak seedlings have been distributed during the past several months by the Louisiana Forestry Commission. Requests for such seedlings should be addressed to the Forestry Commission Building, L. S. U., Baton Rouge.

### AGENTS PARTICIPATING IN JANUARY ARRESTS

Lionel Broussard, John Busalacchi, Harris Champagne, Sam Chaze, Richard Clement, Ruben Davis, Wilton Decuir, G. W. De Loach, Tom Duck, D. L. Farrar, John Foolkes, John Gilbert, Nathan Guillory, Allen Hawsey, E. B. Head, Lesma Hebert, Clarence Hood, Maurice Huval, William M. Jones, Robert D. Landry, W. H. Landry, B. P. Le Blanc, Young M. Miley, Sam Nunez, Armand Petit, H. A. Pipes, Cliff Reeves, Allen Swayze, Ferdie Trouille, Chas. Ventrelia, Whitney Vincent, Hector Waguespack, D. C. Warner, Gordy Simon.

# HOW Pittman-Robertson ACT WORKS

By C. S. BEDELL, Director  
Sportsmen's Service Bureau,  
Sporting Arms and Ammunition  
Institute.

Although the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act, is now nearly seven years old and has received considerable publicity, recent inquiries from sportsmen and others indicate that there still exists some uncertainty as to just what it is and how it operates. The following is an attempt to repeat in brief form some of the information already released on the broad purpose and more important provisions of the Act, and to give some idea of its scope.

On September 2, 1937, the President signed this bill, defined as an Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in wildlife restoration projects and for other purposes. This act authorized the setting apart in the Treasury of an amount equal to the annual total excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition in a special fund to be known as "The Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund" and further authorized annual appropriations from this fund for the use of the various States for approved wildlife projects. At the time the bill was passed, a 10% excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition was in force. Subsequently (July 1, 1940) this tax was increased to 11%.

The annual appropriations made by Congress each year under this act are subject to a deduction of not more than 80% for the use of the Fish and Wildlife Service in administering the act. The remainder is then allocated to the States, half in the ratio that the area of all the States, and half in the ratio that the number of paid hunting-license holders of each State in the preceding fiscal year bears to the total hunting-license holders of all the States.

Since 1939, when the first Pittman-Robertson appropriation was made, Congress has appropriated a total of \$10,000,000 from the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund. Deduction of administration expenses from this total left \$9,158,000 actually apportioned for the use of the States, and \$72,600 for the use of Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. As each State must also put up 25% of the total cost of projects approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service (an amount equal to 33 1/3% of the federal funds allocated to the States), the \$9,-

230,600 apportioned for the fiscal years 1939-1944 inclusive (see table) has been supplemented by \$3,052,666.67 in additional obligations assumed by the States, bringing the total funds available for wildlife restoration over this period to \$12,283,266.67.

## State Qualifications

Before a State may qualify to receive the benefits of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, it must pass enabling legislation assenting to the provisions of the Act and, to quote the Act, "shall have passed laws for the conservation of wildlife which shall include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of said State Fish and Game Department."

A State must also give notice of its desire to participate within 60 days after receiving certification of apportionment of funds, or forfeit its right to money earmarked for its use. Likewise, it must expend or obligate the full amount of funds apportioned for its use for a given fiscal year by the end of the fiscal year following or lose the right to use the unobligated amount.

## Use of Funds

The Act specifically limits use of Pittman-Robertson funds to three general groups of projects as follows:

1. Land purchase for wildlife restoration.
2. Land developed to make public-owned areas more suitable for wild mammals and birds.
3. Research aimed toward the solution of problems in wildlife management.

It is interesting to note that the development of public shooting

grounds or controlled hunting as a means of harvesting game crops must be a secondary consideration, merely incidental to the main purposes of any project. The object of the Act is to use arms and ammunition taxes to provide better sport by producing more game, and not merely to provide places from which it may be taken by the hunter.

No permanent improvements may be made on privately owned lands. Temporary structures, fences, trees and shrubs, may be placed on lands leased or otherwise controlled by the state game department for sufficiently long periods to insure material benefit to wildlife. Likewise, use of Pittman-Robertson funds may not be employed for establishment of nurseries and game farms, the output of which might be used over wide areas not controlled or managed by the State. Purchase of shrubs, trees, and other plants for use on project areas, or of game birds or other animals for seed stock, may be approved where need of such action is evident.

There now exists, in the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund, a substantial accumulation of unappropriated sporting arms and ammunition taxes. This will serve as a reservoir from which Federal Aid appropriations may be made during these wartime years when sales of sporting arms and ammunition (hence taxes upon them) are very much smaller than normal years. It will also provide a source of revenue to help finance such postwar game restoration activities as may be necessary to improve recreational facilities and to help create employment for our boys upon their return.

|                                                                                                   |      |               |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------|-----------------|
| Federal Aid funds apportioned to States Territories and Islands from Federal appropriations ..... | 1939 | \$ 890,000.00 |                 |
|                                                                                                   | 1940 | 1,400,000.00  |                 |
|                                                                                                   | 1941 | 2,300,000.00  |                 |
|                                                                                                   | 1942 | 2,570,600.00  |                 |
|                                                                                                   | 1943 | 1,150,000.00  |                 |
|                                                                                                   | 1944 | 920,000.00    | \$ 9,230,600.00 |
| Plus State obligation (33 1/3% of \$9,158,000) .....                                              |      |               | 3,052,666.67    |
| Total made available for Wildlife Projects in States, Territories and Islands .....               |      |               | \$12,283,266.67 |

## CONCESSIONS AT STATE PARK NOW OPEN

The Concession Building at Fontainebleau State Park near Mandeville, is now open on Sundays for the sale of refreshments and short orders. Mr. Earl A. Zimmer will again be in charge of operating the building. Or-

ganized groups wishing to be served with means on special occasions should contact Mr. Zimmer to complete arrangements. The telephone number is Mandeville 111 J. Later on in the season when attendance at the park warrants it, the building will remain open throughout the entire week.

## Value and Take Less as Muskrat Season Closes

(Continued from Page 1)

propagation and development of the State's game preserves.

At least one more public sale will be held to dispose of the furs taken from the game preserves during the closing days of the season. While official figures will not be available until later, it is believed that both the catch and the value of the fur crop will be less this year than the past season.

Requests for extending the muskrat season beyond the February 15th date were refused by Commissioner John G. Appel, who stated that the Department had no authority to extend the season beyond the legal date. Likewise, he stated that biologists had advised him that it would be "harmful to our future fur crop" to extend the season.

The latest sale of furs was held Friday, February 9th, at the Department's warehouse in New Iberia, and accounted for \$70,-546.16. Included in the furs sold at that time were 56,137 muskrats, 224 minks, and 283 raccoons. Muskrats sold for the new ceiling price of \$1.23 each which was an increase over the previous OPA ceiling of \$1.19, prevailing at the first two sales.

The first sale held January 4th brought in \$61,346.61 for 48,624 muskrats, 382 mink pelts and 1,463 raccoons. The second sale held January 25th accounted for \$94,614.22, for 77,053 muskrats, 388 minks and 799 raccoons.

## TEXAS PROPOSES BIG TAX ON LA. SHRIMP BOATS

The game committee of the Texas Legislature recently approved a bill whose sponsors said was designed to keep Louisiana commercial fishing boats from gobbling up Texas shrimp.

The measure would put a \$2,500 annual license fee on out-of-state commercial fishing craft in addition to a \$200 annual out-of-state commercial fishing license on individual fishermen. It was given a unanimously favorable recommendation that it be passed and was ordered printed by the committee. It is now pending for final passage in the Texas legislature.

Representative Sherwood Brown, Jr., of Texas City, one of the authors of the bill, told the committee that big luggers from Louisiana are in effect hogging the shrimp crop in the Sabine area, and the Louisiana laws prohibit Texas commercial fishermen from operating in Louisiana waters.

# Louisiana Editor's Views on Conservation

## CLOSED FISHING SEASONS (From the Shreveport Journal)

In the 38 southern Louisiana parishes a "closed season on fishing" went into effect today, February first. It will be extended to the 26 north Louisiana parishes on the first day of March, and will continue in this section until the first of May. According to a statement by Commissioner John G. Appel of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, the 1944 legislature enacted the law under which this action is being taken; his office has no alternative but to enforce it strictly, and this, he says, will be done. "If the experiment does not prove successful or bring the results expected," said Mr. Appel recently, "it will be up to the legislature at its next session to do something about it."

The state of Texas has been experimenting with "closed seasons on fishing" for a number of years, but that the results have been disappointing is admitted throughout that state. As a result the Texas legislature now has before it a bill to do away with this regulation, and providing there "shall be no season or period of time when it shall be unlawful to take, catch or retain fresh water fish by use of ordinary hook and line or by artificial lure." The Texas bill, introduced by Senator Howard Carney of Atlanta, would repeal all local, general or special laws fixing closed seasons, and would set limits on size and number of fish that may be caught.

This writer, who claims to have some little knowledge of the gentle art of fishing, is convinced that the so-called "closed season" is wrong—economically, scientifically, ichthyologically, spiritually and otherwise. In this belief he is supported by the convictions of many experts, who hold that the eating-size game fish should be taken out of the water to make room for the "small fry" and to allow those just hatched to find the necessary food. The soundness of this theory, we believe, cannot be successfully challenged, its correctness having been demonstrated on innumerable occasions.

Our understanding of the most recent legislation enacted by the Louisiana general assembly on this point was that it provided simply that the department of conservation (now the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries) should have authority to order a

closed season, or allow fishing throughout the year, at its discretion. We may be wrong, of course; certainly Commissioner Appel should have the correct information—and he says the law makers enacted a statute closing all streams and lakes to fishing for "black bass, known also as green trout; striped bass, known also as yellow bass; and crappie, known also as white perch, speckled perch and (in south Louisiana) as sac-a-lait." If such a law was passed, it was a mistake, in our humble opinion, and if it permits commercial fishermen to continue their activities right through the closed season, as Mr. Appel states, that, also, was a blunder on the part of the legislators.

The plain and simple truth, we are convinced, is that there is no possibility of the fish supply being exhausted by those who fish with hook and line or artificial lure. It is absolutely impossible to catch the fish as rapidly as they are hatched in our north Louisiana lakes. If the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries really desires to do something to conserve the supply of fresh water game fish it should devote its efforts to ridding the waters of gar and turtles and let the noncommercial fishermen go to it twelve months in the year, with a reasonable limit fixed as to number and size. And while the department is about it, there should be some ruling that would make these limits the same in all lakes and streams.

## CLOSED SEASON ON BASS

(From the New Orleans Item)

We hope our conservation authorities, as well as the Wild Life Leaguers who backed the movement for a two-month closed season on bass fishing in February and March, will be sufficiently open-minded to admit the failure of the experiment—if it does fail, as a number of conservationists expect it will.

Fish are not like birds or mammals, which protect their young in the helpless stage. They do not "hover the nest" or feed the fry. About the only service an adult bass renders his or her progeny is to devour a lot of them. Experience in re-stocking trout and salmon along our westcoast streams has shown that little good was accomplished by releasing literally millions of fry in the immature, helpless stage; whereas a great

deal of permanent good has been accomplished by releasing some thousands of young fish at the "fingerling" stage, where they can shift for themselves to some extent.

Closing the season, when no one really even knows exactly what the spawning time of bass is, merely is another way of providing more fry. A close watch on those who take undersize bass, with rescue-missions for the batture-pits where countless thousands of bass and crappie are trapped each summer, would seem to promise more permanent good than a closed season which, for two months, deprives many boatmen who rent skiffs to anglers, of a means of livelihood. The experiment is on. Perhaps it is a noble one. But if not, let the facts be admitted, and proper remedial steps be taken.

## A Box of Shotgun Shells

(From the Terrebonne Press)

In the hands of a good hunter, a box of shotgun shells is more than a few hours of sport. It may very well mean a substantial addition to the meat supply at a time when food from all available sources is needed.

The War Production Board's announcement that enough shells will be produced to provide one box for every hunter this fall is, therefore, one of the gratifying developments of this strenuous economic period. There will also be a limited supply of rifle cartridges for hunters of larger game.

Wild game is an important Terrebonne parish resource, whose development has been encouraged on a large scale by many states. Lack of ammunition for hunting has resulted in an undue increase of game in some sections, with such overcrowding that sometimes animals have starved. Now that it is possible without hampering the war program, it is better that there should be now and then on many tables a nice roast duck. We hope the shells are properly divided and that a few hunters won't hog all of them.

Although the busy beaver has been known to reach a weight of 68 pounds, he belongs to the same family as the squirrel and the mouse. Fossil remains indicate that the same animal, in prehistoric days, weighed as much as 400 pounds.

## Closed Season Applies to Only 3 Species of Fish

(Continued from Page 1)

agents have strict orders to enforce this closed season as required by law," the Commissioner declared.

The twenty-six parishes in North Louisiana where the closed season on the three species of game fish will be in effect during the months of March and April are the following:

Sabine, Grant, Natchitoches, LaSalle, Catahoula, Tensas, Franklin, Caldwell, Winn, Red River, DeSoto, Caddo, Bienville, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Ouachita, Morehouse, Richland, Madison, West Carroll, East Carroll, and Concordia.

The same law providing these closed seasons, which is Act 166 of 1944, gives the Department of Wild Life & Fisheries the authority to declare a closed season on any other or all types of fishing in any waters or portion of waters in the State, when the Department deems such action necessary,

## HARD SHELL CRABS BRINGING BIG PRICE

Hard shell crabs are selling for record prices in New Orleans. At the French Market on February 8th, crabs were selling for \$6 per basket (a basket containing usually about six dozen). In previous years, hard shell crabs sold for about \$1.50 a basket. The highest price known for crabs previously was \$4.50 a basket.

## FORESTRY COMMISSION MOVES TO BATON ROUGE

The Louisiana Forestry Commission, formerly located in the Civil Courts Building in New Orleans, has moved to Baton Rouge, where it has its official domicile under terms of the Constitutional Amendment creating this new state department.

Present quarters of the Forestry Commission are in the basement of the Agricultural Extension building on the campus of Louisiana State University.

## WILDLIFE CONVENTIONS ARE CALLED OFF

The annual convention of the North American Wildlife Conference and the meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association of America scheduled for New York in February, have been called off as a result of the government's ban on gatherings of more than fifty people.



### TYPES OF VIOLATIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING JANUARY

|                                                       |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Angling without license.....                          | 1         |
| Possessing undersized game fish                       | 1         |
| Possessing undersized commercial fish .....           | 1         |
| Possessing over legal limit of game fish .....        | 1         |
| Possessing undersized shrimp.....                     | 5         |
| Fishing with explosives.....                          | 1         |
| Hunting without license.....                          | 9         |
| Hunting at night.....                                 | 16        |
| Hunting with unplugged gun.....                       | 21        |
| Hunting migratory waterfowl—illegal hours .....       | 7         |
| Hunting migratory waterfowl during closed season..... | 1         |
| Exceeding legal limit of migratory waterfowl .....    | 1         |
| Killing song birds.....                               | 1         |
| Hunting on state preserves.....                       | 5         |
| Hunting Doe deer.....                                 | 1         |
| Hunting without federal stamp                         | 4         |
| Hunting rail .....                                    | 2         |
| Trapping without license.....                         | 9         |
| Trapping on state preserves.....                      | 8         |
| Transporting game to sell.....                        | 1         |
| <b>Total .....</b>                                    | <b>96</b> |

### PARISHES IN WHICH VIOLATIONS OCCURRED IN JANUARY

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Assumption .....      | 5         |
| Avoyelles .....       | 6         |
| Calcasieu .....       | 4         |
| Caldwell .....        | 1         |
| Cameron .....         | 11        |
| Claiborne .....       | 1         |
| Concordia .....       | 1         |
| East Baton Rouge..... | 1         |
| East Feliciana .....  | 1         |
| Evangeline .....      | 6         |
| Iberia .....          | 3         |
| Jefferson .....       | 1         |
| Lafourche .....       | 8         |
| Madison .....         | 4         |
| Morehouse .....       | 2         |
| Natchitoches .....    | 2         |
| Ouachita .....        | 3         |
| Plaquemines .....     | 3         |
| Pointe Coupee .....   | 2         |
| Rapides .....         | 3         |
| St. Charles .....     | 9         |
| St. Martin .....      | 2         |
| St. Tammany .....     | 3         |
| Terrebonne .....      | 3         |
| Vermilion .....       | 5         |
| Washington .....      | 1         |
| <b>Total .....</b>    | <b>96</b> |

## Migratory Census May Solve Mystery Of Missing Ducks

The mystery of what happened to the ducks in Louisiana this past season may be cleared up when the results of the annual migratory waterfowl survey are made known. The annual census took place shortly after the season ended on January 20th, and was directed in Louisiana by Robert Smith, flyway biologist of the United States Department of Interior's Wildlife and Fisheries Service.

Department agents cooperated with federal agents in the survey and Smith used the Department's small plane on several occasions to take part in the census.

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that a report on the survey will be issued as soon as the results are compiled. The mystery is what happened to the 35,000,000 wild ducks that were supposed to have shown up in Louisiana this past season, but didn't. Louisiana officials figured that around 25 per cent of an estimated 140,000,000 ducks which left the Canadian breeding grounds last October and November should have come to this state, but not more than five per cent are estimated to have come this way.

Many explanations have been advanced, including earlier warmer weather, and the presence of many army planes in the South, but these and other reasons cannot be accepted as official until the results of the migratory survey are announced, at which time, perhaps, the story of what happened to the ducks, will be known.

## TENSAS PARK BILL PROPOSED BY ELLENDER

Senator Allen J. Ellender has introduced a bill in the United States Senate proposing the establishment of a national park in Madison Parish, to be known as the "Tensas River National Park," which would embrace the area of the Singer Wildlife Preserve.

## POVERTY OR CONSERVATION

(Continued from Page 3)

sustenance will continue to come from our continent. That again raises the question of how long we can continue to feed more and more people on less and less productive soil. That we are going to have to feed more and more people is a foregone conclusion. The only other alternative is to materially remedy the "less and less" soil situation by known methods of soil management and the application of scientific conservation principles. Since it is obvious that more and more people cannot live on less and less, forever and ever, world without end, we should face the problem frankly and either apply conservation seriously or resign ourselves to the inevitable consequences of a greatly lowered standard of living.

It took Pearl Harbor to awaken us to the dangers of a three-year-old war which threatened our Democratic way of life. With sufficient courage, determination and sacrifice of blood and national treasure we can recover from that blow and win this war against our human enemies but if we do not take warning and defend our natural resources from this headlong race of waste and depletion we will lose a battle from which our continent never will recover. The road back from Pearl Harbor is short and easy compared to the road back from a continent shorn of its natural resources. The Prodigal Son was lucky. He went back home to the fattened calf after he had squandered his all in riotous living. When we have spent our heritage of natural resources in riotous living there won't be any fattened calf or sympathetic father to go back to. Mother Nature is unforgiving. When we have spent our natural resources, we have spent everything, and we are jolly well doing just that right now.

It seems strange that we are not more concerned over this inevitable prospect, especially in this day of horrors when we see the cumulative results of worldwide surplus populations seeking to extricate themselves from the pinch of worn-out soils and shrunken resources by wholesale indulgence in mass murder and international burglary. Whatever the pretexts may be by which Japan, Italy and Germany attempt to justify the slaughter of

their neighbors and the seizure of their territory, the undisputed facts are plain that Japan could no longer sustain her bulging population on the decreasing resources within her island boundaries. Italy had to have expansion of both territory and food supplies or suffer ever increasing national poverty. Germany must have land, food and a place to send her surplus of people or accept a gradual decline in living standards and face eventual national disintegration. Each seeks now to supply her own needs by forcibly taking them from the neighbors.

Germans, Italians and Japanese have learned by sad experience that a loaf, however large, can be cut into only so many slices. With all due reverence to the parables of Holy Writ, mere man has found no way to feed an ever-increasing multitude with fewer and fewer loaves and fishes.

That is the lesson which conservationists are trying to drive home to the people of this continent before it is too late. The rich topsoils, the sparkling waters and the rich growth of vegetation, together with its minerals and wildlife, which made this continent the richest prize in the history of civilization, are not inexhaustible, in spite of our common habit of thinking so. If intelligently cared for they can be made to last indefinitely and produce abundantly. But if any one of the three is depleted by wasteful practices and slothful mismanagement our American continent will be broken out with a rash which no sociological salve can cure. Then America will not only be unable to "feed the world" but by its own standards of living will be unable to feed itself. When that day comes, if it is not here already, economic depressions, revolutionary uprisings and internal discontent will follow as night follows day, just as these same symptoms have marked the decline of every center of civilization since the beginning of history. Many of the tragedies which have come upon portions of our population during the recent heart-breaking years of depression were the direct results of disregard or ignorance of the simplest conservation principles. In spite of all technological discoveries those same tragedies will be surely multiplied as we take on additional responsibilities resulting from the war.

(Continued next month)